

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 194957 TOSEC 200080

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON THE ACTING SECRETARY RE
SISMIK

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY
HABIB AUGUST 4 TO DISCUSS THE AEGEAN AND THE SISMIK PROBLEM.
HE HAD RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FROM A VACATION IN GREECE BE-
CAUSE OF RECENT TENSIONS WITH TURKEY BUT HAD NO SPECIFIC
POINTS TO RAISE AT THIS TIME. HE DID HOWEVER CITE "PROVO-
CATIVE" PRESS STATEMENTS RE MISSION OF SISMIK BY VARIOUS
TURKISH LEADERS AND CHARGED THAT SUCH DECLARATIONS CHALLENGE

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GREEK SOVEREIGNTY.

2. IN RESPONSE, HABIB STRESSED THAT THE SECRETARY WAS FOLLOWING THIS MATTER CLOSELY AND HAD INSTRUCTED AMBASSADORS KUBISCH AND MACOMBER TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT AND MODERATION. THEY HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR ALL POINTS THEY WERE MAKING IN ATHENS AND ANKARA- MOREOVER GREEK GOVERNMENT COULD REST ASSURED THAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH HAD BEEN FAITHFULLY REPORTING THE GREEK POSITION TO WASHINGTON.

3. HABIB EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO RESOLVING DIFFERENCES OVER SISMİK'S OPERATIONS AND THE AEGEAN WITHOUT A CONFRONTATION, PERHAPS BILATERALLY OR THROUGH THE INTER-

NATIONAL COURT IF THE PARTIES AGREE. HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR TWO SIDES TO RESUME THEIR DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE NOTED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SISMİK OPERATIONS WILL NOT INVOLVE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE SHELF, NOR WAS THE VESSEL CONDUCTING ITS RESEARCH IN A DISPUTED AREA, ALTHOUGH ITS FUTURE COURSE REMAINED UNKNOWN. HE SUGGESTED THERE WERE MANY WAYS THE GREEKS COULD PRESERVE THEIR RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN WITHOUT A RECOURSE TO FORCE. FOR EXAMPLE, GREECE WAS SENDING ITS OWN RESEARCH VESSEL INTO THE DISPUTED AREA AND COULD FORMALLY LODGE A PROTEST WITH TURKEY.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS NOTED THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, SOME LAWYERS CONSULTED BY GREECE ASSERT THAT, TO PROTECT HER RIGHTS, GREECE MUST TAKE FORCEFUL ACTION AGAINST THE SISMİK. HABIB SAID THIS WAS NOT THE OPINION OF DEPARTMENT LAWYERS, AND CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT SO FAR EVERYONE WAS EXERCISING RESTRAINT AND HOPEFULLY WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

HABIB

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